

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A flexible pipe for transporting a fluid, the pipe comprising a liner for confining the fluid to be transported by the pipe, an armouring layer surrounding the liner, an outer protective sheath surrounding the armouring layer, wherein said outer protective sheath comprises at least two protective layers of helically wound composite wires, said at least two layers being wound with essentially opposite winding angles and being locally held together, and wherein the armouring layer is not chemically bonded to the inner liner or to possible intermediate layers or membranes but is able to move relative to the inner liner or the possible intermediate layers or membranes.

Claim 2 (Currently amended): A flexible pipe according to claim 1 wherein said at least two protective layers have adjacent surfaces of contact comprising areas which are held together and areas ~~with~~ which are un-tied to each other.

Claim 3 (Previously presented): A flexible pipe according to claim 2 wherein said at least two protective layers are locally held together to provide local fixation of the wires of one layer of the at least two protective layers with respect to another layer of the at least two protective layers, while allowing for shear deformation between the protective layers in areas of said adjacent surfaces that are un-tied to each other.

Claim 4 (Withdrawn): A flexible pipe according to claim 2, wherein said at least two protective layers are held together by a localized bonding implemented by a glue or a heat- or pressure-induced localized melting, distributed on said adjacent surfaces of contact.

Claim 5 (Previously presented): A flexible pipe according to claim 2 wherein said at least two protective layers are held together by at least one discrete string of binding material located on said adjacent surfaces of contact, said string of binding material extending in a longitudinal direction of the flexible pipe and crossing the composite wires of said protective layers.

Claim 6 (Original): A flexible pipe according to claim 5 wherein a multitude of essentially linear and continuous strings of binding material are distributed around the periphery of the contacting surfaces of adjacent protective layers.

Claim 7 (Withdrawn): A flexible pipe according to claim 5 wherein said binding material is chosen from the group consisting of hot melt adhesive, thermoplastic polymer, cross linked polymer adhesive, and vulcanizing paste.

Claim 8 (Previously presented): A flexible pipe according to claim 1 wherein said composite wires comprise a number of chords, at least one of said chords being locally linked to at least one neighbouring chord.

Claim 9 (Original): A flexible pipe according to claim 8 wherein said at least one chord is linked to said at least one neighbouring chord along their adjacent longitudinal surface.

Claim 10 (Original): A flexible pipe according to claim 9 wherein said at least one chord is fully or partially melted to said at

least one neighbouring chord along their adjacent longitudinal surface.

Claim 11 (Previously presented): A flexible pipe according to claim 8 wherein each chord comprises a number of threads twisted around a longitudinal axis of the chord and at least one of said threads comprise a thread binding material.

Claim 12 (Withdrawn): A flexible pipe according to claim 11, wherein said threads are twisted around a central element.

Claim 13 (Withdrawn): A flexible pipe according to claim 12 wherein said central element comprises filaments of a metallic material such as copper or a copper alloy.

Claim 14 (Previously presented): A flexible pipe according to claim 8 wherein said chords constitute a tape-formed wire.

Claim 15 (Previously presented): A flexible pipe according to claim 11 wherein said thread binding material is a material chosen from the group of thermoplastic polymers, and rubbers that may be vulcanized.

Claim 16 (Previously presented): A flexible pipe according to claim 11 wherein said threads comprise a number of fibres or filaments.

Claim 17 (Previously presented): A flexible pipe according to claim 16, wherein said fibres or filaments are of a material chosen from the group of polyester, aramide, polyethylene, titanium, and copper.

Claim 18 (Previously presented): A flexible pipe according to claim 16 wherein said fibres or filaments are fully or partially protected by a jacket, a coating or an impregnation.

Claim 19 (Previously presented): A flexible pipe according to claim 1 wherein a water-permeable intermediate layer is located between said armouring layer and said outer protective sheath.

Claim 20 (Currently amended): A method of manufacturing a flexible pipe of claim 1, the method comprising: providing a liner for confining the fluid to be transported by the pipe; providing an armouring layer surrounding the liner; and providing an outer

protective sheath surrounding the armouring layer, comprising providing a composite wire, and providing at least two protective layers, each layer being arranged by helically winding at least one of said composite wires, said at least two layers being wound with essentially opposite winding angles and being locally held together.

Claim 21 (Previously presented): A method according to claim 20, wherein at least one discrete string of binding material is applied to the contacting surfaces of neighbouring protective layers, said string of binding material being arranged to extend in a longitudinal direction of the flexible pipe and to cross the composite wires of said protective layers.

Claim 22 (Previously presented): A method according to claim 20, further comprising providing a number of chords, and arranging said chords to a wire so that at least one of said chords is locally linked to at least one neighbouring chord.

Claim 23 (Previously presented): A method according to claim 22, further comprising providing a number of threads wherein at

least one thread comprises a binding material, and arranging said threads to a chord.

Claim 24 (Previously presented): A method according to claim 23, wherein said threads are twisted around a longitudinal axis of the chord.

Claim 25 (Withdrawn): A method according to claim 24, wherein further comprising providing a central element and winding said threads around said central element.

Claim 26 (Previously presented): A method according to claim 22, comprising arranging a binding material between adjacent longitudinal surfaces of said neighbouring chords.

Claim 27 (Previously presented): A method according to claim 22, comprising arranging adjacent longitudinal surfaces of said neighbouring chords to be fully or partially melted together.